

DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
4/11/13 at 11:00 a.m

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen (DFW), Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu and Wenli Yin (DWR), Elizabeth Leeper (KMTG on behalf of SLDMWA), Leigh Bartoo (FWS), Owen Lu and RG Fernando (MWD), Barb Byrne (NMFS), Eleanor Bartolomeo (SWRCB)

Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report			
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)	DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)	DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)
Date	3/26/13 to 4/8/13**	4/4/13 to 4/10/13	Monitoring discontinued since 12/15/12.
CHNF	82,555	8	
CHNLF	6,148***		
CHNW	5,722		
CHNS	27,742	10	
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not reported		
SH	1,069		
Ad-Clipped SH	Not reported		
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.			

**There has been an increase in passage for all species reported at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam since the last reporting period of 3/12 to 3/25.

***Brood year 2013 for late-fall run Chinook salmon began on 4/1 according to the Frank Fisher model. The brood year 2012 passage total for late-fall run Chinook was estimated at 139,501 fish.

Graphical summaries of the monitoring data collected at the Sacramento River and at other locations can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, the biweekly passage reports of juvenile salmonids sampled at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam are available at http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx

Delta Fish Monitoring

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 3/31/13 to 4/6/13				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl**	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
CHNF	90		38	1
CHNLF				
CHNW				13
CHNS	13		67	10
Ad-Clipped CHN			9	4
SH				
Ad-Clipped SH				2
DSM				6 (75 to 86 mm, 1 with egg and 5 without expression)
LFS				1 (90 mm)
SPLT				2
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

** From April to June, DFW (Region 4) conducts the Mossdale trawl monitoring and not FWS. Based on preliminary data from DFW, 255 non-clipped Chinook salmon with an average fork length of 72 mm were

caught at Mossdale during 4/1 to 4/6. In addition, DFW caught five ad-clipped steelhead with sutures, but DFW did not measure these steelhead.

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can also be found at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/>.

Salvage Monitoring

Reclamation ceased water exports at the Jones Pumping Plant and ceased salvage operations at its fish facility at 0600 hours on 4/1 due to a scheduled installation of a new hoist trolley beam in the fish holding tank building. Pumping and salvage will return at approximately 0700 hours on 4/15.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 4/2/13 to 4/7/13								
Species	Central Valley Project (CVP)				State Water Project (SWP)			
	Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)		Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF							18	79
Total to Date	93	62	48	33	322	1,460	60	256
CHNLF								
Total to Date	165	118	28	18	616	2,780	57	260
CHNW							4	17
Total to Date	67	53	129	98	114	513	142	633
CHNS							62	261
Total to Date			80	56			128	539
CHNU								
Total to Date			8	5				
SH					60	260	51	221
Total to Date	297	202	221	150	234	1,013	261	1,119
Notes: -Chinook race based on length (Delta model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, CHNU= Unknown race (Chinook greater than the length-at-date criteria), SH = Steelhead. -Salvage and loss estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish. -Documentation on how to calculate salvage and Chinook loss can be found at ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Salmon%20Loss%20Estimation/ . -Steelhead loss: SWP steelhead loss = salvage × 4.33 and CVP steelhead loss = salvage × 0.68. -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013). -Data subject to revision.								

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 4/2/13 to 4/7/13				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM*		148		112
LFS**		111		8
SPLT		21	6	84
GST				
WST		4		6
Notes: -DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon. -Salvage estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish. -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013). -Data subject to revision.				

*Delta smelt < 20 mm in fork length were reported in larval fish samples at the SWP fish facility during the period from 1500 hours on 3/28 to 0900 hours on 4/4. This is the first time this water year that delta smelt

< 20 mm in fork length were reported.

**Longfin smelt < 20 mm in fork length were reported in larval fish samples at the SWP fish facility during the period from 1500 hours on 3/28 to 0900 hours on 4/4.

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP site (<ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>). If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx> and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

Smelt Monitoring

DFW has finished sampling for 20-mm Survey #1 to 3. However, processing is not complete and has been halted for an unknown length of time since DFW is relocating its office. Preliminary results for the following three surveys are presented in the tables below.

DELTA SMELT						
20-mm Survey #	Date	% Processed	# Caught in Central and South Delta	# Caught in Sacramento River System	# Caught in Confluence	# Caught in Suisun Bay and Westward
1	3/11/13 to 3/14/13	78				
2	3/25/13 to 3/28/13	70	10 (8 to 12 mm)	13 (5 to 15 mm)	4 (6 to 10 mm)	
3	4/8/13 to 4/11/13	18	19 (10 to 16 mm)	16 (7 to 74 mm)		

LONGFIN SMELT						
20-mm Survey #	Date	% Processed	# Caught in Central and South Delta	# Caught in Sacramento River System	# Caught in Confluence	# Caught in Suisun Bay and Westward
1	3/11/13 to 3/14/13	78	12 (8 to 17 mm)	225 (6 to 21 mm)	563* (6 to 110 mm)	1,087 (5 to 25 mm)
2	3/25/13 to 3/28/13	70	97 (7 to 20 mm)	597 (6 to 25 mm)	1,590 (7 to 26 mm)	740 (9 to 31 mm)
3	4/8/13 to 4/11/13	18	50 (9 to 18 mm)	149 (12 to 29 mm)		

*One adult at 110 mm.

Lastly, 20-mm Survey #4 is scheduled to begin on 4/22. For more information about the 20-mm Survey, please visit the DFW website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group met this past Monday (4/8) to review the current distribution and salvage of longfin smelt and delta smelt, and to review the current Delta conditions. After reviewing all the data and risks, the Smelt Working Group agreed that the current operations were adequate for the protection of delta smelt and longfin smelt. For now, the FWS determination from 3/12 is still in place, which states that the 14-day average Old and Middle River (OMR) flow be no more negative than -5,000 cfs and the 5-day average OMR flow be no more negative than -6,250 cfs for the protection of delta smelt.

After reviewing the weekly recommendation, there was a question on whether there has been any indication that a more restrictive OMR flow will be needed when the Smelt Working Group convenes again next week. Leigh Bartoo (FWS) mentioned that there has been no juvenile delta smelt salvage in April as of 4/10 and the monthly take limit is set at 20 fish. In addition, operations are already at the health and safety export level of 1,500 cfs due to NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1 (San Joaquin River inflow to export

ratio), and the 5-day average OMR flow is positive as of 4/10. FWS RPA Component 2, Action 3 would not require OMR flow to be more positive than -1,250 cfs even if a more restrictive OMR flow is needed for delta smelt protection.

The Smelt Working Group notes and FWS determinations are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group

DOSS met this past Tuesday (4/9) and reminded WOMT and NMFS that the projects are still implementing the first-stage action response of OMR flow being no more negative than -3,500 cfs in NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow management) until there are 3 consecutive days where no NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 trigger is exceeded. However, NMFS was informed the following day (4/10) that the second stage steelhead trigger was exceeded on 4/9, which requires OMR flow to be no more negative than -2,500 cfs for a minimum of five days. Day 1 of the action response began the following day on 4/10 since DWR and Reclamation were already operating within the range of the action response due to NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1. OMR flow can be relaxed to -3,500 cfs if no second stage trigger is exceeded during the last 3 days of the action response or to -5,000 cfs if no first stage trigger is exceeded during the last 3 days of the action response.

In addition, DOSS provided advice to NMFS and WOMT on how to implement the first and second stage trigger for non-clipped steelhead in NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 since there was some recent confusion on how many decimal places should characterize the loss density triggers of 8 fish/TAF and 12 fish/TAF. To determine whether a steelhead trigger is exceeded, NMFS should follow the RPA language and calculate the daily first and second stage loss trigger for non-clipped steelhead by multiplying the combined SWP/CVP exports in TAF by either 8 fish/TAF (first stage trigger) or 12 fish/TAF (second stage trigger). Afterwards, NMFS would need to see if the daily non-clipped steelhead loss at the SWP/CVP is greater than the daily loss triggers. Prior to this advice, NMFS only looked at the daily steelhead loss density to see if it was greater than 8 fish/TAF or 12 fish/TAF for ease of reporting. Both methods should produce the same outcome as intended by the RPA. However, calculating out the daily loss triggers for steelhead would avoid confusion on how to characterize the decimal places of the daily steelhead loss density when comparing it to 8 fish/TAF or 12 fish/TAF.

DOSS notes are posted at <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>.

Operations

Preliminary Summary for 4/11/13			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	1,500	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	0
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	493	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	772
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	1,265	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,250
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	2,300	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	5,800
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~15,400	14-day Average OMR Flow as of 4/10/13 (cfs)	-1,442
X2 (km)	71	5-day Average OMR Flow as of 4/10/13 (cfs)	216
E/I (%)	8.3 (14-day average)		

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>.

Next Conference Call: The next DAT conference call is scheduled on 4/18 at 11:00 a.m. An e-mail update will be sent out before the conference call if an agency representative cannot call in.